

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6050

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SARARA: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: GOM REPORTEDLY REJECTS QUADRIpartite SAHARA TALKS. FONMINS LARAKI AND OULD MOUKNASS SAID TO TIGHTEN RANKS AT THE HAGUE. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS GOING LIGHTLY ON SPANISH ICJ PRESENTATION, BUT GOM PROTESTS TO UN ABOUT REPRESSION OF MOROCCANS IN CEUTA. SPANISH EMBASSY HERE EXPRESSING CONVICTION THERE IS NO MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN AGREEMENT. PRESS CONTINUES STRESS ON GOM-GIRM DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES. OPPOSITION PARTIES DISSATISFIED WITH SAHARA SITUATION, WITH VARYING PUBLIC APPROACHES. END SUMMARY.

2. GOM REJECTS QUADRIpartite TALKS: SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR JULY 24 REVEALED VIA AFP REPORT THAT GOM HAS NOTIFIED WALDHEIM
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IT IS AGAINST HOLDING OF QUADRIpartite MEETING PROPOSED BY

SPANISH UNTIL REPORT OF UN COMMISSION WHICH RECENTLY VISITED AREA IS ISSUED AND ICJ ADVISORY OPINION DELIVERED.

3. ICJ: FONMIN LARAKI RETURNED TO RABAT JULY 23 FROM HIS MEETING WITH OULD MOUKNASS IN THE HAGUE. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS OF HIS MISSION UNIFORMATIVE, BUT L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL) SAYS MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN DELEGATIONS HAVE DECIDED ON COMMON TACTICS FOR SECOND ROUND OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS. (MOROCCO TO SPEAK FIRST IN EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF REPLY BEGINNING JULY 24.)

4. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS GIVING SPANISH ICJ PRESENTATION FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD TREATMENT. MAROC SOIR JULY 23, FOR EXAMPLE, DEVOTED LITTLE SPACE OR SPLEEN TO REPORT THAT SPANISH HAD INTRODUCED PORTIONS OF F POLISARIO MEMORANDUM, PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO VISITING UN COMMISSION, TO BOLSTER THEIR ARGUMENTS. PAPERS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO POINT OUT "STRANGE SIMILARITY" IN SPANISH AND ALGERIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE FRONT, "WHOSE HEADQUARTERS IS IN ALGIERS".

5. MEANWHILE SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCES HERE POINT TO ALGERIAN PRESENTATION AS WELL AS TO "HIGHLY UNUSUAL" MEETING OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR WITH FRANCO JULY 21 AND REPORTED ALGERIAN SPONSORSHIP OF F POLISARIO AT KAMPALA AS FIRM INDICATIONS THAT MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN AGREEMENT NON-EXISTENT.

6. ENCLAVES AND SAHARA: ENCLAVES PRESS PROFILE, RECENTLY LOW, RAISED SOMEWHAT BY SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 22 THAT SPANISH "VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN" IN CEUTA WERE PROTESTED IN GOM LETTER TO WALDHEIM. LETTER REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT 400 CEUTA MOROCCANS HAD BEEN INTERNED IN MILITARY CAMPS AND THAT 70 MOROCCAN NOTABLES WERE FORCED TO OPT FOR SPANISH CITIZENSHIP WITH 24 HOURS OR FACE EXPULSION. IF SUCH MEASURES CONTINUE, LETTER CONCLUDED, GOM WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF ITS CITIZENS. FOLLOWING DAY, LE MATIN PUBLISHED EXCERPTS OF TASS REPORT OF MOROCCAN PROTEST QUOTED AS BLAMING SPANISH FOR POSSIBILITY OF "DANGEROUS TENSION" IN AREA.

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7. L'OPINION JULY 24 REPORTED AND REBUTTED CIFRA CLAIM THAT 16 "MOROCCAN SOLDIERS" CAPTURED WITHOUT A STRUGGLE BY SPANISH SOMEWHERE IN SAHARA. PAPER SAID CLAIM REFLECTS REGULAR DECEIT OF (OFFICIAL) SPANISH PRESS SERVICES, WHICH ATTEMPT TO DENY SAHARAN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY FAVORING UNION WITH MOROCCO BY PRETENDING ONLY GOM REGULARS INVOLVED. WHY NO ACTION AGAINST ALGERIA'S F POLISARIO MERCENARIES?, PAPER ASKED RHETORICALLY.

8. EXPLANATORY MISSIONS: JOINT MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN MISSIONS TO ARABS AND LATIN AMERICANS PROCEEDING APACE. SUCCESSES CLAIMED NOTABLY IN SUDAN AND JORDAN, BUT REPORTS HERE GIVE IMPRESSION THAT SUPPORT MAY BE FIRMER FOR LIBERATION FROM SPAIN THAN FOR PARTITION BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.

9. OPPOSITION VIEWS SHOW NO SIGNS OF MELLOWING. ISTIQLALI PRESS, UNHAPPY ABOUT EVERYTHING, SAYING MOROCCO SHOULD BE READY TO SEIZE SAHARA BY FORCE. USFP'S PAPER, EQUALLY UNHAPPY, HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN RELATIVELY LACONIC ON SAHARA AND MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS. PARTY REPRESENTATIVES IN PRIVATE COMMENTS AIRING HOPEFUL VISIONS OF A DISCREDITED KING HASSAN HOISTED ON OWN PETARD OF WHAT THEY SEE AS UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO PIN DOWN RAPPROACHEMENT WITH ALGERIA. PPS (COMMUNIST), ONLY OTHER PARTY WHICH PUBLISHES REGULARLY, SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN REST, ALTHOUGH ITS COMMENTARY ALSO LIMITED.
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